

Fiscal Year 2012 Request for Proposal Information



RFP Background: The Plains and Prairie Pothole Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PPP-LCC) is seeking project ideas for potential funding in 2012. While the total available funding for 2012 is somewhat uncertain at this time, the Cooperative may have up to \$500,000 dollars to distribute for projects in 2012 and decisions will be made by the end of January to distribute available funds. Individual projects in past funding cycles have ranged from \$10,000 to \$500,000.

The fundamental objective of the PPP-LCC is to increase conservation delivery across the partnership by reducing scientific uncertainty related to landscape level stressors such as climate change. Projects should support on-the-ground decision making and conservation delivery for natural resource managers while accounting for sources of uncertainty about system dynamics that would affect management decisions. Projects for 2012 should address at least one of the following science needs:

1. Information that reduces uncertainty related to species life-history. Specifically, how species are likely to respond to landscape level stressors such as climate change that impact management across a species range. Additionally, information that LCC partners can use to improve models that predict species response to management actions at landscape scales.
2. Information related to natural resource impacts associated with energy development. This includes, but is not limited to, information about population-level impacts of energy development across multiple taxonomic groups over large areas, impacts to aquatic systems and predictions of likely energy development scenarios.
3. Information related to the identification of decision makers within the boundaries of the PPP-LCC, the types of decisions they make, and what kind of tools they need or use and their most pressing landscape level concerns.
4. Information related to land use policy and its impact on land use and land conversion. This includes information on factors that influences land owner decision making that will help the partnership understand how to incentivize conservation.
5. Information on emerging landscape level threats to conservation that allows decision makers to be proactive in land and water management. This includes information on threats not being widely addressed, but likely to become widespread problems in the future, and how decision makers in the partnership should prepare for those threats.

We encourage project applicants to avoid duplication of existing efforts, address scientific issues of importance to the entire LCC partnership, aim for addressing questions within a year (not a long-term monitoring need) and produce publishable results. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have discussed/developed the project with members of the LCC partnership.

Four questions which must be addressed in the proposal are

- 1) Why is this work important to the LCC?
- 2) How are you going to accomplish what you propose to do?
- 3) How do you propose to deliver your products to the LCC?
- 4) Which partners are invested in this effort?

Projects may be one year or more in duration, however, deliverables should be clearly identified for each year, and subsequent years' funding is not guaranteed. Project applicants should outline how the results of their project will be shared across the LCC partnership.

How to submit a proposal: Project applicants must address one or more of the science needs identified above. The application may not be longer than 3 pages (reviewers will not read additional material that is provided). Each proposal must be accompanied by curriculum vitae for each Principal Investigator (no more than 2 pages) and a budget sheet for the project (no more than 1 page). Deadline for the proposal submittal is: COB December 11, 2011. Proposals should be submitted to Richard_d_Nelson@fws.gov or Michael_Olson@fws.gov.

Project Selection Schedule: The Technical Team of the PPP-LCC will review project applications in mid-December and the final selection of successful projects will be made by the PPP-LCC Steering Committee in early January, 2012. Awards will be announced soon thereafter. Contracts for this funding will likely not be finalized sooner than February 2012.

Questions: contact Mike Olson at 701-355-8545 or Rick Nelson at 701-355-8509. We will also host two conference calls on Monday November 28th at 10:00am and 2:00pm Central Time to discuss the proposal process and any specific concerns applicants may have. The call in numbers: Toll free @ 1-877-282-9259 Passcode: 1978254. Toll number @ 1-517-345-0375 Passcode: 1978254. For more information on the PPP-LCC we invite you to visit the following website.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/climate/LCC/PPP/index.cfm>